

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMCONSUL LAHORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 221

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, IN, PK

SUBJECT: BHUTTO ON KASHMIR AND NAP

REF: A) LAHORE 1437; B) NEW DELHI 12198

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN TWO SPEECHES NOV 6, ON FIFTH DAY
OF "GRAND TOUR" OF PUNJAB, PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO
LASHED OUT AT GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ON KASHMIR ISSUE AND
TOOK OCCASION TO TAR NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) WITH
PRO-INDIA BRUCH. VISITING LEADER OF CHINESE DELEGA-
TION, PERHAPS COINCIDENTALLY, SPEAKING IN LAHORE
SAME DAY REITERATED "FIR SUPPORT FOR THE CHINESE
PEOPLE FOR THE JUST STRUGGLE OF KASHMIRI PEOPLE FOR
SELF-DETERMINATION." END SUMMARY.

1. IN TWO SPEECHES AT PUBLIC RALLIES IN BAHAWALPUR
DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN PUNJAB NOV 6, PRIME MINISTER
BHUTTO DECLARED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT ACCEPT
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ANY SOLUTION TO KASHMIR PROBLEM WHICH BY-PASSED ANY

ONE OF THREE PARTIES TO DISPUTE: INDIA, PAKISTAN AND PEOPLE OF KASHMIR. HE ASSERTED THAT A SETTLEMENT "CONTRIVED" BETWEEN INDIAN PRIME MINISTER GHANDI AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH WOULD BE "MEANINGLESS" BECAUSE TWO OF THE THREE PARTIES, PAKISTAN AND THE PEOPLE OF KASHMIR, WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONSULTED. HE CONTENDED THAT NO "PROPOSALS" PREPARED BY MRS. GHANDI AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH WOULD EVER SUCCEED WITHOUT GOP APPROVAL, AND WARNED THAT ANY ATTEMPT TO IGNORE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION FOR PEOPLE OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR WOULD FAIL TO SETTLE ISSUE.

2. IN HIS FIRST SPEECH (AT YAZMAN, A VILLAGE IN CHOLISTAN DESERT AREA), BHUTTO MAINTAINED THAT PAKISTAN DESIRED FRIENDSHIP WITH INDIA AND REITERATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD PROMOTE FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH GOI UNDER TERMS OF SIMLA AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, HE SAID GOP WAS CLOSELY WATCHING ONGOING DIALOGUE BETWEEN MRS. GHANDI AND SHEIKH ABDULLAH AND INSISTED THAT PAKISTAN COULD NOT BE "BROW-BEATEN" BY INDIAN ATOMIC BLASTS OR "WAR PREPARATIONS."

3. IN SECOND SPEECH AT AHMEDPUR EAST LATER IN DAY, BHUTTO PROCLAIMED THAT "NOT EVEN 20 ATOMIC EXPLOSIONS BY INDIA" WOULD BUDGE PAKISTAN FROM ITS WELL-KNOWN STAND ON KASHMIR ISSUE. HE TOLD CROWD THAT PAKISTAN'S "ESTABLISHED STANDPOINT" CONCERNING KASHMIR WAS MADE CLEAR TO GOI DURING SIMLA TALKS IN 1972. MOREOVER, HE NOTED THAT SIMLA AGREEMENT ITSELF CONTAINED STATEMENT

OF GOP POLICY ON KASHMIR. HE CLAIMED THAT, EVEN THOUGH INDIAN OFFICIALS AT SIMLA TALKS EXHIBITED "HIGH AIRS" BECAUSE OF VICTORY IN 1971 INDO-PAK WAR, HE HAD SUCCESSFULLY STOOD UP TO THEM AND HAD WARNED THEM THAT ONLY A "REASONABLE ATTITUDE" ON PART OF GOI WOULD LEAD TO ACCORD ON KASHMIR ACCEPTABLE TO GOP. HE ASSERTED THAT TIME HAD PROVED THAT PAKISTAN HAD BENEFITTED FROM SIMLA AGREEMENT, AND SAID NO "INDIRA-ABDULLAH ACCORD" COULD PROVE WORKABLE. GRATUITOUSLY, HE ADDED THAT SHEIKH ABDULLAH NOW TALKS ABOUT "REVOLUTION," BUT SAID HISTORY REVEALS THAT ABDULLAH HAD NEVER SUCCEEDED IN REVOLUTION OR NEGOTIATIONS.

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4. SPEAKING AT RECEPTION IN LAHORE NOV 6, LEADER OF 54-MAN CHINESE CIVIL AIR DELEGATION MA JEN-HUI PROFESSED, INTER ALIA, THAT CHINESE PEOPLE FIRMLY SUPPORTED "JUST STRUGGLE OF KASHMIRI PEOPLE FOR SELF-DETERMINATION." ALTHOUGH REMARK WAS PERHAPS COINCIDENCE, GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAKISTAN TIMES PLACED IT ON FRONT PAGE ALONGSIDE LEAD ARTICLE ON BHUTTO SPEECHES. HEADLINE READ "CHINESE

SUPPORT TO KASHMIRIS REAFFIRMED."

5. ONCE AGAIN USING OCCASION TO TAKE NATIONAL AWAMI PARTY (NAP) LEADERS TO TASK, BHUTTO REMINDED THEM THAT INDIA THEY PRAISED (WHILE CRITICIZING PAKISTAN) WAS SAME INDIA WHICH KEPT SHEIKH ABDULLAH IN JAIL FOR 14 YEARS WITHOUT TRIAL. HE CHARGED THAT NAP LEADERS OFTEN POINTED TO INDIA AS EXAMPLE OF DEMOCRACY AND CLAIMED THAT PAKISTAN WAS DICTATORSHIP, THOUGH THEY "KNEW" THAT SOME 15,000 PEOPLE HAD RECENTLY BEEN ARRESTED BY "INDIAN RULERS" IN BIHAR. ON OTHER HAND, DESPITE NAP OPPOSITION TO "PAKISTAN MOVEMENT," SAME LEADERS WERE ALLOWED BY GOP TO "CARRY ON ACTIVITIES" IN COMPLETE FREEDOM.

6. BHUTTO THEN ALLEGED THAT NAP GENERAL SECRETARY WAS "SITTING IN KABUL," RECRUITING, TRAINING AND INFILTRATING "SABOTEURS FROM BALUCHISTAN AND NWFP." HE CHARGED THAT NAP LEADERS WERE "ALWAYS READY TO MERGE WITH INDIA OR AFGHANISTAN," BUT NOT PREPARED TO REMAIN IN INDEPENDENT PAKISTAN. HOWEVER, HE MAINTAINED, THAT "AFTER ITS DEFEAT IN BALUCHISTAN, WHERE THE GOVERNMENT CRUSHED THE INSURGENCY, THE NAP WAS NOW BUSY SETTING OFF EXPLOSIONS." HE SAID GOP WOULD BEAT NAP IN THIS TEST OF STRENGTH, BEGINNING WITH TRIAL OF "SABOTEURS" RECENTLY ARRESTED IN NWFP.

7. COMMENT: WHILE USING FACT OF LONG YEARS OF GOI INCARCERATION OF SHEIKH ABDULLAH AS STICK WITH WHICH TO BEAT NAP, BHUTTO BLITHELY IGNORED FACT THAT HIS GOVERNMENT HAS KEPT FOUR NAP LEADERS INTERNED WITHOUT TRIAL FOR PAST 15 MONTHS. INTERESTING THAT HE ONCE AGAIN ALLUDED TO INDIAN SUPPORT FOR NAP (IN ADDITION TO USUAL ACCUSATIONS AGAINST AFGHANISTAN). ISLAMABAD MAY WISH TO ADD COMMENT.

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